



the RARA RAG

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NO. 1

RARA September Meeting

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

What do 036055 and Jamboree On The Air have in common? In the national scheme Monroe County has been assigned a Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) designation, above. This means that your all-hazards radio unit can, via NOAA's radio transmitters, alert you and your family to a hazardous and threatening events in your specific community or your surrounding area. Project Prepare is an initiative of Monroe County's Local Emergency Planning Committee. Cynthia Ames, Leader of Monroe County's Project Prepare, will discuss and demonstrate the capabilities, features and programming of some of the All-Hazard radios.

Immediately after the All-Hazard Radio presentation, John Van Griethuysen, N2BNE (one of the JOTA Guys,) will discuss this year's Jamboree On The Air offerings. JOTA is a great opportunity for hams to enlighten, entertain and educate scouts about the capabilities and fun of Amateur Radio. Over a thousand scouts usually attend the Camp Cutler event over the JOTA October weekend.

To answer the opening question: The Rochester Amateur Radio Association General Membership Meeting. Friday night. September 9. 7:30 pm. 2005. East Henrietta Rd and Lehigh Station Fire Hall. Be There!

RaRa Meeting

September 9 2005

7:30 PM.

Henrietta Fire Company #1
3129 East Henrietta Road

Project Prepare

by Cynthia Ames

& Jamboree on the Air

by John VanGriethuysen, N2BNE

Newbie Net moves into fall season

By Phil Mulivor, WW2E
Newbie Net Moderator

The WA2MYG Memorial Newbie Net will enter its fall season with growing levels of participation from both newly licensed and long-time amateurs. The Newbie Net meets each Sunday evening on the K2RRA (146.88) repeater, immediately following the Monroe County FM Net.

The Newbie Net introduces ham radio newcomers to Rochester's best Elmers, and features a new topic each week. Recent topics have included the FCC's latest no-code proposal, favorite ham radio online resources, repeater etiquette, and working the International Space Station.

"We had some great participation over the summer," said Phil Mulivor, WW2E, Newbie Net moderator. "Summer is often a slower time for net participation, but everyone showed up for some very lively Sunday evenings."

The Newbie Net was created by Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, now a silent key. After Ray's untimely passing, the net was continued by his long-time friend, Brad Allen, KB2CHY. Brad has been responsible for building this net into a truly successful memorial to its founder. His efforts to grow the net honor Ray's memory in a very significant way.

The topic of the week is announced on the K2RRA repeater several days in advance of each Sunday's net. The Newbie Net also will continue to offer web-based downloads that relate to the weekly topic.

All amateurs -- not just "newbies" -- are encouraged to check in to the Newbie Net. "After all," said Phil, WW2E, "Elmers are the GLUE that hold the hobby together." Questions and comments can be sent to: newbie.net@frontiernet.net.

SILENT KEY

Alan R. Metz, WJ2E

April 23, 2005

the RARA RAG

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RaRa Rag 2

The Prez Sez

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
President, RARA

Welcome back to another season of exciting and interesting meetings and events with RARA. While we haven't had any regular meetings during the Summer the organization has been active providing communications at a number of public service events. Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, our Public Service Coordinator and his dedicated group of volunteers have been very busy at their tasks. There are a number of events still in the schedule before it winds down with the annual "Pumpkin Patrol" at the end of October. If you haven't participated in an event and you would like to learn more about what goes on, why not give Keith a call at 254-0722. He will be happy to fill you in. The events are always a lot of fun and the rewards are great.

The first meeting of the year will be on September 9th at our usual place, the Henrietta Fire Company #1 on East Henrietta Road at Lehigh Station Road. The business meeting will start promptly at 7:30PM. It will be followed immediately by the speakers of the evening and then the usual coffee and donuts will be served by our Refreshments Chairman, Tom Austin, KA2GXX. This year we are going to limit the business meeting portion of the evening to about 20 minutes so that we can begin the speakers portion of the meeting sooner. I think this will make for a more enjoyable evening and we will be able to finish at a reasonable time.

For the ARRL members in the area we are going to have the chance to vote for a new Director of the Atlantic Division of the ARRL. Bernie Fuller is not running for re-election this year so there will be new faces at the helm of the Division. At the present time I believe there are 3 candidates seeking the position. Ballots will be mailed to all members by the first of October and they must be returned by November 18th. I am going to contact the candidates and see if I can get them to submit information to us in time for the October RAG which will be published the last week of September. I urge all of you who are eligible to vote to do so. This will be your chance to make your opinion count.

Due to a change in availability of the room at RIT where we have held our License Classes and our VE Testing sessions, we will be moving them to a different location. The location will be announced very soon but the information was not available as we went to press for this issue. Stay tuned to the RARA Hotline and the web page for details as soon as they are available. The License Classes are scheduled to start on September 19th with Brad Armstrong, W1YX as our License Class Chairman.

Our monthly VE Testing sessions will also continue this fall. The exact location and starting date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed. We are aiming for the same schedule as last year, the 3rd Saturday of the month. The sessions will probably start in October and will continue until next May. There will also be special testing sessions at the conclusion of the Fall and Spring License Classes.

We are currently looking for someone to take over as the License Testing Coordinator. If you are currently a VE, or would like to become a VE, and you are interested in this position I would appreciate it very much if you would give me a call at 334-1762 in the evenings so we can discuss the position.

If anyone has any ideas of topics or demonstrations that they think would be of interest to the members at a monthly meeting I am sure the Vice-President, Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY would like to hear from you. Bill can be reached at 334-7640.

Remember, this is your organization and your thoughts are always welcome by the Officers and members of the board of Directors. Feel free to contact any of us with your comments.

A Call to Service – Amateur Radio Awareness Day & Rochester Marathon

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
Media Communications

September 17 is **Amateur Radio Awareness Day** and in Rochester we have a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the service we provide for the community. On that day, the **Arthritis Foundation of Rochester** is sponsoring the **Rochester Marathon**. Unlike previous years, the race will actually begin and end in Rochester – at Frontier Field. Lynne Doescher, who is heading up the event for the Arthritis Foundation, told me that based on the current registration rate the size of the event will easily outpace previous years, and possibly could go as high as 1500 – 2000 runners, making it a major sporting event by any standards.

Lynne knows how important ham radio operators are to making the event a safe and successful one for the participants and spectators. When I told her that Amateur Radio Awareness Day coincided with the Rochester Marathon, she expressed an interest to make it a “win-win situation for both of us” in terms of public relations. For my part, I am working on contacts at the Democrat and Chronicle. For your part, please volunteer for the event. We

need as many volunteers as we can get. You will have the satisfaction of doing double duty for the Arthritis Foundation and for Amateur Radio Awareness Day. Contact Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, at n2bel@frontiernet.net, 254-0722

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, September 1985

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

A special guest was the program for this 1985/1986 RaRa season kick-off meeting. We were pleased to have ARRL Atlantic Division Director Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, speaking on recent changes at ARRL and in Amateur radio in general. While attending this meeting you could also pay your seven-dollar annual dues to Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU. Howie Davies, N2CUN, presented the awards program while George Muller, WA2IEO, continued his long run as refreshments chairman. Presiding that year was Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, President, Dick Goslee K2VCZ, Vice-President, John Lloyd KA2KFV, Secretary and Dave Bernheisel N2DPF, as Treasurer. On the Board was Lloyd WB2EFU, Howie N2CUN, Keith N2BEL, Ed N2EH, Ed WA2UBD, Ed N2BXA and Charlie W2YPR. Your RaRa Rag Editor was Ron K2RJ, with Associate Editor Don Taylor KB2BU.

Beginning in what we now know as a long term relaxation of rules and regulations geared at increasing operating privileges, the FCC announced that Novices could now operate phone in a portion of 10 meters. The RaRa Volunteer Examiner Team, headed by John Schooley, K2NC, and coordinated by Metroplex/VEC, announced a full slate of exams for the entire year. Exams were held on the third Saturday of each month at 111 Westfall Road. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, announced the start of the Fall Licensing classes. N2EH handled the Novice theory instruction while Russ Foster, NE2B, did the code. Ed Gable, K2MP, cranked out the General theory while Bud Young, WA2UGE, managed the code practice. At this time RaRa had 860 members, making it one of the largest ham radio clubs in the nation. With regret it was announced that Joseph Murphy W2KSA and Andrew Suter KC2XP, were reported as silent keys. Andy Suter, the son of Marty Suter, N2AGR, was also known as KC4USV, where he was Officer-in-Charge of the McMurdo Antarctic station. From the Want-Ads you could buy a tri-band yagi from Jerry Fink, W2TTQ. Michael Rice, KB2SG, Attorney at Law, remained a long term advertiser.

Clubs & ARES & ARRL; Oh My or ... ARRL organization 101

By Judy Stonehill, N2KXS
Emergency Coordinator

When an organization grows very large, with over 150,000 members nationwide, its structure and the relationships among its various functions can be unclear. For many people, especially new hams, the ARRL organization can be very confusing. This may be the case, particularly for two ARRL-related amateur radio entities: amateur radio clubs and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®).

The primary distinction between these two groups lies in their reporting structures, that is, to whom are they responsible. For ham clubs, the link to the ARRL organization is optional. A group can elect to be an ARRL-affiliated club provided they meet a few simple criteria. For example, the club must have a constitution and at least 51% of the membership must also be ARRL members. ARRL affiliation has benefits for both groups.

Among other benefits for a club, liability insurance and equipment insurance can be obtained for the club through ARRL; the ARRL will send referrals of prospective hams and/or mailing lists and labels to the club; and, the club can receive commissions by submitting ARRL membership applications.

The ARRL also benefits because affiliated clubs provide ARRL with information regarding activities at the local level, which ARRL can then use when defending Amateur Radio's interests.

The relationship between ARRL and ARES is quite different from that between ARRL and affiliated clubs. The most obvious difference is that ARES groups report directly into the ARRL Field Organization. For ARES, there is a well-defined chain of command, the responsibilities of which include appointments, reports, job descriptions, standards, etc. For example, my boss, who is located in the Buffalo area, is the Section Emergency Coordinator and his boss is the Division Emergency Coordinator. An ARES group is responsible only to the ARRL Field Organization and to the community it serves, such as the people in Monroe County.

In Monroe County, there's a great opportunity for cooperation between ARES and RARA members. By assisting with communications during a special event, ARES members are able to practice the message handling protocols that we use during actual emergencies. At the same time, RARA has access to a larger source of manpower to call upon for those special events. Thanks to the outstanding work of Keith, N2BEL, and other RARA people in RaRa Rag 4

organizing public service communications, both ARES and RARA members can take advantage of this win-win situation.

"ARES" and "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" are registered servicemarks of the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated and are used by permission.

Well Known Rochester Ham QRT

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

It was with mixed emotions that I answered her plea for help. The help was to take down and permanently remove the station of Lucille Breimer, W2SCI. Lucille, a blind XYL ham, started in the days of big AM transmitters and receivers large enough to anchor small Navy ships. Her old Hallicrafters HT-9 would be welcome in any museum. Like most of us, she soon found her niche in Ham radio. No, not DX'ing, not rag chewing on 75, not high speed CW, but rather Lucille took a liking to helping others. She learned about traffic handling and more importantly, phone patching.

With the help of folks like Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, and many others, she assembled a very capable high power station with a massive 4 element, 20 meter mono-band yagi hanging over each side of her modest Penfield area home. Lucille soon fell into a routine of staying up each evening, into the wee hours, and running phone patches for Navy personnel stationed at Antarctica and frozen in for the winter. Lucille's big signal and friendly voice was music to the ears of these servicemen as she connected each one to their families here at home.

Over the years Lucille was rewarded with letters of commendation from base commanders and a letter of recognition from the Navy Department. She received many personal gifts from appreciative servicemen and one souvenir that she will never part with... a Navy jacket emblazoned with the patches of the many departments and organizations that she helped. But times change. Phone patches were replaced with satellite telephones and later something called e-mail. With the need for phone patching now gone, W2SCI was mostly silent. Lucille was heard for a while on 2 meter FM, but enjoyable as that was to talk with her local friends, it didn't take the place of the thrill of helping a GI so far, far away.

This year, with the added need of a new roof, it was time. The big yagi came down, the radios were packed, the holes in the house that once ran coax were patched and the operating desk under where her transceiver stood was dusted for the first time in many years.

In a little while the neighbors will forget the big yagi next door. I'll bet, though, that there are still some Navy guys who remember that lovely voice from far away saying "... Hi John, this is W2SCI, I've got your wife on the line, go ahead and start, don't forget to say over...." THIS, my fellow hams, is what Amateur Radio is all about. Bless you, Lucille, enjoy your retirement.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
Media Communications

To kick off the new season, here are local hams who have made the news:

The first newsmaker is our own Keith Freeberg, N2BEL. Not only is he well known among RARA members, but also among the greater Rochester community he serves through Public Service. On June 12, Keith organized the amateur radio volunteers for the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure bicycle event. This was a major event with hundreds of riders [it grows every year] and dozens of hams stationed at rest stops or in sweep/SAG vehicles. Needless to say, Keith had a busy day. But the press did get a turn before things got hectic. Keith was interviewed by WHAM Channel 13. The next day the interview was aired as an exclusive Channel 13 Bright Spot. I happened to catch the news that night and Keith gives a great interview. *Channel 13News, June 13, 2005.*

When Phil Mulivor, WW2E, conducted a ham radio demonstration at the Derech HaTorah Orthodox Jewish School, he did so in an impressive way, one that was sure to impress his youthful audience. In his own words, he views amateur radio as a way of "fostering global goodwill." During the demonstration, his daughter Hannah, KC2NHV and her sixth grade class established a QSO with a search-and-rescue team in the mountainous area of Eilat, Israel. Oh yes, did I mention? Phil used a HT to establish this DX contact. Don't you love QRP? *Democrat and Chronicle, June 23, 2005.*

A sidebar appeared with the Phil Mulivor article which noted local Amateur Radio Field Day activities. These included The Rochester DX Association radio station at Lookout Shelter in Mendon Ponds Park, and the Rochester Radio Repeater Association demonstration at Harborfest. Congratulations to the folks of these organizations for staging the Field Day events. *Democrat and Chronicle, June 23, 2005.*

When I visited family in Connecticut, I missed the Field Day activities here. I got on my mobile radio to make some contacts for information about events in Connecticut. I happened to contact Bill McCasland, W7YY, President of the Waterbury Amateur Radio Club. He invited me to visit the Prospect Firehouse where the club had set up shop for Field Day. I was made to feel welcome as soon as I arrived. Later in the afternoon, a reporter from a newspaper was interviewing hams about Field Day and amateur radio. When he learned I was not from the area, he asked me a bunch of questions. I explained how I took a break from my biological family to be with my "other brothers and sisters." The article that was published included two paragraphs about "a ham from Rochester, New York." Bill McCasland was kind enough to send a copy to me. They even spelled my name right. *Republican-American (Waterbury, CT) June 26, 2005.*

Meeting Announcement

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

The next Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee will be held on September 14, 2005, 8:30 am at 1190 Scottsville Road, Suite 200. Please sign in as a ham radio guest. Refreshments will be served.

RDXA Sept Meeting

By David Wright, N2CK

Tuesday, Sept. 20th starting at 7:30PM. at Gander Mountain, 300 Jay Scutti Blvd. In Henrietta.

Wayne Reinert, K3ZXY will be reviewing the Ten-Tec 1340 QRP rig he recently purchased and built. For those not familiar, this rig operates on 40M. According to Wayne, it's quite a deal with a list price of \$95.

Wayne will host a show-n-tell and answer questions after the program.

FOR SALE:

MFJ-442 Electronic Keyer Paddle with Memory. Perfect condition, manual. \$170. new; asking \$80. Irv Goodman, AF2K, (585) 671-4430

October Rag Deadline
September 16, 2005

Special RARA Purchase

Discounts to Members

RARA announced today that it is offering to its members ARRL reflective vests and magnetic vehicle door signs at a deeply discounted rate. This discount is a result of a donation to RARA and specific funding for this purpose from the RARA general fund directed towards Public Service.

The vests and vehicle signs marked 'Radio Communications' are designed to enhance your visibility while participating in Public Service. The reflective vest is an adjustable one-size-fits-all and the vehicle sign is an 8" x 18" flexible magnetic sign with additional space to add your call sign and/or event.

There are a **limited number** of vests and signs available on a first-come first-serve basis during this initial offering. Pricing is as follows:

1 ARRL Vest normally is \$14.95. RARA discount is 33% or \$5.00 off, now **\$9.95!**

2 ARRL Vehicle signs normally are \$25.90. RARA discount is 39% or \$10 off, now **\$15.90!**

Purchase a vest and two signs and receive a 50% discount or \$20 off, for \$20.85!

Only 30 vest/sign combos are available in this first offering, and we ask that you limit your order to one set per person so that as many hams as possible can take advantage of this offer. Vests and sign sets can also be purchased separately while quantities last. Orders will be taken at the September RARA meeting, or send an email to ka2gpj@yahoo.com stating what you would like to purchase. A reply will be sent to you telling you how to pay for your order.

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

**October Rag Deadline
September 16, 2005**

RaRa Rag 6

What do you do with old Ham magazines?

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
Treasurer, RARA

Instead of tossing out your year-old QSTs and other radio magazines, recycle them at your friendly dentist and doctors waiting rooms. The next time you print up some return address labels, print the following label to cover your address on the front of your used magazines:

Complimentary Copy Provided by:

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For info call (585) 442-0587

www.rochesterham.org

Or if you don't have the ability to print your own labels see Dick Goslee for a supply of labels as he has them already printed up on sticky back address label stock.

We can promote ham radio and save some material from going to the landfills at the same time. Who knows, we might get some interested people to become hams, or at least read an interesting article or two from a worthwhile magazine.

September Calendar

9 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 East Henrietta Road

9 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.

14 - BARK - 7:00 PM, monthly construction
meeting at KC2JKV, 1140 Peck Rd, Hilton

20 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander
Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta

23 - RRRRA - 8:00 PM monthly meeting at
Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.

28 - BARK - 7:00 PM monthly business meeting
at Seymour Public Library, Brockport

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Rotator: Alliance HD-73 Heavy Duty Rotator

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